

A “sneak peek” at Aruba’s newest place for fun and dining; The Key Largo Casino



With a name like the “Key Largo Casino/Bar/Restaurant. Aruba,” one would expect a trip to Margaritaville, and that is exactly what you get when you walk in the doors. The Gillman Group of Las Vegas have taken over what was the Royal Cabana Casino, and while the main casino building undergoes some major renovations, the former Hangout Restaurant has been converted into a cozy place to spend the evening for dining and entertainment.

Director of Marketing & Project Development, Benjamin Urban revealed that Aruba is the Gillmann Group’s first foray into the Caribbean by the casino operators that have quite a few located around the world. They plan to continue the Key Largo style with casinos on other islands, as they feel it is so suited to the mood and climate. The old restaurant section has been converted into a cozy casino with a tropical feel, even to the felt on the gaming tables. There one can find popular games such as Caribbean Stud Poker and Texas Hold ‘em, and a new hybrid exclusive to the Key Largo Casino, Caribbean Hold ‘em. Sparkling new slot machines await you, as does a beautifully executed ceiling by Aruban artist Juancho Dijkhoff, that is a map of the Caribbean.

One would expect to hear Jimmy Buffet in the background, and Mr. Urban confided that may well be a possibility once the main casino with showroom and restaurant is completed. Not only Jimmy Buffet, but it is their intention to bring back the days when casinos featured top entertainment and dining. Until then, some of Aruba’s best talent, good enough to compete with many name U.S. groups will entertain nightly in their temporary headquarters.

A peek at the menu displayed a diverse selection of island favorites with an emphasis on fresh seafood, and, above all, affordable pricing. The Key Largo Casino, Bar and Restaurant Aruba will be a family place, where Mom and Dad, along with the kids can enjoy music and good food, while one of the parents perhaps tries their luck at the tables. Most importantly, the complex is open for late night dining with a special menu from midnight to 4:00 A.M, and offers “happy hour” prices on all drinks all day, from 11:00 A.M until closing.

The official opening of the restaurant and casino takes place on Friday evening at 10:00 PM, and there will be tee shirt giveaways and a chance to sample the restaurant menu during the opening festivities.